



Commas . . .

652.1

To Separate Introductory Clauses and Phrases

Use a comma to separate an adverb clause or a long phrase from the independent clause that follows it.

If every automobile in the country were a light shade of red, we'd live in a pink-car nation. (adverb clause)

According to some experts, solar-powered cars will soon be common. (long modifying phrase)

652.2

In Compound Sentences

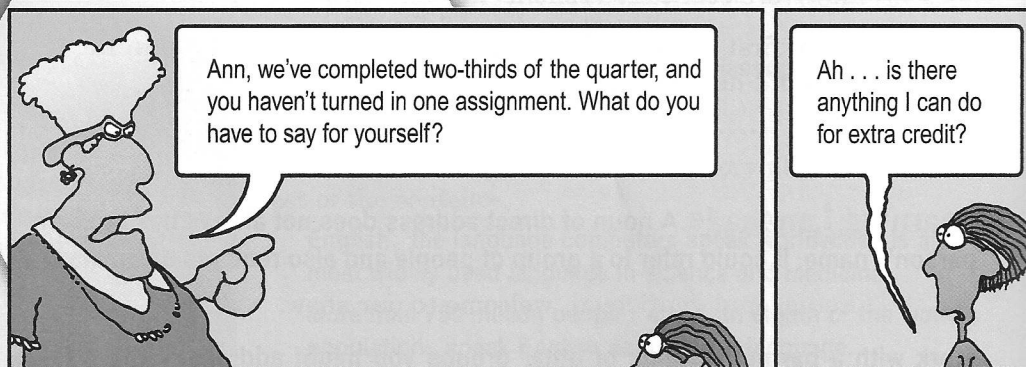
Use a comma between two independent clauses that are joined by a coordinating conjunction (such as *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, *for*, *so*, and *yet*), forming a compound sentence. An independent clause expresses a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence. (Also see page 578.)

Many students enjoy working on computers, so teachers are finding new ways to use them in the classroom.

Computers can be valuable in education, but many schools cannot afford enough of them.

Avoid Comma Splices: A comma splice results when two independent clauses are "spliced" together with only a comma—and no conjunction. (See page 568.)

SCHOOL DAZE





Practice

Commas 5

- To Separate Introductory Clauses and Phrases
- In Compound Sentences



For each sentence below, write the word that should be followed by a comma. Add the comma.

Example: Often considered a Canadian sport hockey has also grown in popularity in the United States.
sport,

1. To be a good hockey player a person must be an excellent skater and a superb athlete.
2. Hockey players have a lot of gear but their most important pieces of equipment are their skates.
3. Since the skates must be kept clean and sharp every team has an equipment manager to sharpen the skates.
4. Although a skate appears to have one sharp blade each skate actually has two blades along a hollow center.
5. A deeper hollow means two sharp blades and that can mean faster skating.
6. Because they move from side to side a lot goalies prefer the control a flatter blade gives.
7. Regular skating dulls blades but they can be dulled even more quickly by crashing against another skater's blades.
8. The quality of the ice affects skating so stadiums take care to maintain their rinks.
9. While "fast ice" is hard and slick "slow ice" is soft and rough.

Next Step: Write four sentences about your favorite winter sport. Include two sentences with introductory clauses or phrases and two compound sentences. Place commas correctly. Read your best sentence aloud to a classmate.